



Resources of a Botanical Nature

The botany component of the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) provides a comprehensive source of botanical information on the Web.

Background

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) is a distributed electronic federation of biological data through which a network of partners, cooperators, and others can find, share, and apply information. The NBII has designed its Botany Web site to accommodate a broad range of audiences. The NBII has taken an approach toward overall design, functionality, and content so that scientists, researchers, academics, and the public will find resources suitable to their interests. There are links to scientific data sets, taxonomies, research projects, and educational information. Resources include materials maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies; academic and research institutions; private-sector and non-profit organizations; and others.

General Information

The site is divided into eight categories relating to the study of botany. These categories are titled Past and Future, Form and Function, Focus on Species, Applied Plant Sciences, Gardening, Collections and Organizations, Botany for Kids, and General Reference

Sources. From the home page, the user can see the topics contained in each category and choose a section accordingly. For instance, Focus on Species explores such botanical topics as algae, fungi, mosses and liverworts, ferns and fern allies, angiosperms, and gymnosperms. When the user clicks on Focus on Species, a new Web page appears, with these topic choices available in a contents list. Each topic is introduced on the page with a definition. Links to appropriate Web sites follow.

Within each topic in a category, links to Web sites have been classified according to the depth and type of the information contained in the linked site. Groupings within the topic areas include basic information, advanced information, resources with extensive links, databases, research, and general reference. Basic information provides information about a topic at a fundamental level. Advanced information features more in-depth perspectives of that topic area. Databases features searchable databases and data sets available on the Web. Research features types of scientific research being conducted on a topic. General reference focuses on resources such as glossaries and encyclopedias that further clarify a subject matter.

Web Page

<http://www.nbii.gov/disciplines/botany>



Photo credit: John Mosesso, Jr.

Past and Future

This section of the Web site focuses on the history of botany. It highlights disciplines such as paleobotany (the study the evolution of

plants through fossil evidence) and plant exploration (the search for new, undiscovered plants). This section also includes links to famous botanists of the past who made significant contributions to botanical study.

Form and Function

Included in this section are links to plant structure and function. Topics include genetics, cytology, anatomy, morphology, physiology, pathology, and ecology.



Photo credit: John Mosesso, Jr.

Focus on Species

There are over 400,000 recorded plant species on Earth. This area of the site is divided into categories including algae, fungi, mosses and liverworts, ferns and fern allies, gymnosperms, and angiosperms. Links to sites that contain databases and taxonomies are found in this section.



Photo credit: John Mosesso, Jr.

Applied Plant Sciences

Agronomy, economic botany, forestry, and horticulture are the topics addressed within Applied Plant Sciences. Each topic area contains links to basic and advanced information, databases, and Web sites that contain many more useful links to similar topics.

Gardening

The Gardening section is devoted to highlighting resources useful for gardeners ranging in skill from beginner to master. Users will find information on annuals and perennials, wildflowers, native plants, composting, water gardens, disease and pest management, invasive plants and weeds, and more.

Collections and Organizations

Botanical collections are important mechanisms for learning and sharing information about plant life throughout the world. This section highlights many significant collections on an international scale, in addition to recognizing organizations and societies that promote plant education and activities.

Botany for Kids

Resources, references, and activities that stimulate students' interest in botany are found in this area of the Web site. The focus is on materials appropriate for students in grade levels K-12. Also included are links to resources for teachers that will aid in introducing botany into the classroom.

General Reference Resources

General plant resources, taxonomies, plant identification tools, databases, geospatial information, image collections, virtual biology textbooks, dictionaries and glossaries, and metadata information are all topics addressed in this area of the Botany Web site.

For More Information

For more information on the NBII Botany Web site, please contact:

Program Manager
NBII National Program Office
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 302
Reston, VA 20192
Phone: 703-648-NBII (6244)
Fax: 703-648-4224
E-mail: nbii@nbii.gov